

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1. (Currently Amended): An image forming apparatus ~~that includes service modules for performing system side processes on image formation, wherein to which~~ applications can be added ~~to the image forming apparatus separately from the service modules,~~ the image forming apparatus comprising:

an auxiliary storage interface part configured to interface with an auxiliary storage device that stores one or more applications, such that the one or more applications are installed on the auxiliary storage device, and that stores an execution command;

a part configured to display a setting screen that receives launch selection information from a display part of the image forming apparatus, and to store information input via the setting screen as launch selection information, the launch selection information identifying at least the auxiliary storage device from among a plurality of kinds of auxiliary storage devices; and

an application launch part configured to access the launch selection information, the launch selection information indicating at least an auxiliary storage device that stores one or more applications from among a plurality of kinds of auxiliary storage devices, and configured to launch the one or more applications from the auxiliary storage device according to based on the accessed launch selection information by issuing the execution command which is stored in the auxiliary storage device; and

a part configured to display a setting screen that sets the launch selection information on a display part of the image forming apparatus, and configured to store information input from the setting screen as the launch selection information,

wherein the service modules are stored in a memory distinct from the auxiliary storage device,

~~wherein the one or more applications are installed in the auxiliary storage device, and
wherein the application launch part launches the one or more applications from the
auxiliary storage device by issuing an execution command which is stored in the auxiliary
storage device.~~

Claim 2. (Previously Presented): The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the auxiliary storage device is at least one of a hard disk device, a recording medium removable from the image forming apparatus without disassembling any other portion of the image forming apparatus, and a computer connected to the image forming apparatus via a network.

Claim 3 (Canceled).

Claim 4. (Original): The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the application launch part launches the application by referring to information on the application.

Claim 5. (Original): The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 4, wherein the information referred to by the application launch part is address information of the application.

Claim 6. (Original): The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the application launch part determines whether the application is installed at the location according to presence or absence of predetermined information on the application, and the application launch part launches the application if the application is installed at the location.

Claim 7. (Original): The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the application launch part refers to setting information including information indicating whether a predetermined application is to be launched, and the application launch part launches the predetermined application if the setting information includes information indicating the predetermined application is to be launched.

Claim 8. (Original): The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the application launch part refers to setting information including information indicating applications to be launched, and the application launch part launches the application indicated in the information.

Claim 9. (Original): The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 8, the image forming apparatus further comprising:

a part for displaying a setting screen for setting the setting information on a display part of the image forming apparatus, and storing information input from the setting screen as the setting information.

Claim 10. (Currently Amended): The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 1, the image forming apparatus further comprising a virtual application service that operates as a client process for the services modules and operates as a server process for the applications, wherein the virtual application service includes the application launch part.

Claim 11. (Original): The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 2, wherein the image forming apparatus receives an application from the computer connected to the

image forming apparatus via a network by using a http protocol or a ftp protocol, and the application launch part launches the received application.

Claim 12 (Cancelled).

Claim 13. (Currently Amended): The computer readable medium as claimed in claim [[22]] 27, wherein the auxiliary storage device is at least one of a hard disk device, a recording medium removable from the image forming apparatus, and a computer connected to the image forming apparatus via a network.

Claim 14 (Canceled).

Claim 15. (Currently Amended): The computer readable medium as claimed in claim [[22]] 27, wherein the ~~application launch program code means~~ launching launches the application by referring to information on the application.

Claim 16. (Currently Amended): The computer readable medium as claimed in claim 15, wherein the information referred to by the ~~application launch program code means~~ launching is address information of the application.

Claim 17. (Currently Amended): The computer readable medium as claimed in claim [[22]] 27, wherein the ~~application launch program code means~~ launching determines whether the application is installed at the location according to presence or absence of predetermined information on the application, and the ~~application launch part~~ launching launches the application if the application is installed at the location.

Claim 18. (Currently Amended): The computer readable medium as claimed in claim [[22]] 27, wherein the ~~application-launch-program-code-means~~ launching refers to setting information including information indicating whether a predetermined application is to be launched, and the ~~application-launch-program-code-means~~ launching launches the predetermined application if the setting information includes information indicating the predetermined application is to be launched.

Claim 19. (Currently Amended): The computer readable medium as claimed in claim [[22]] 27, wherein the ~~application-launch-program-code-means~~ launching refers to setting information including information indicating applications to be launched, and the ~~application-launch-program-code-means~~ launching launches the application indicated in the information.

Claim 20 (Cancelled).

Claim 21. (Currently Amended): The computer readable medium as claimed in claim 13, wherein the ~~application-launch-program-code-means~~ launching receives an application from the computer connected to the image forming apparatus via a network by using a http protocol or a ftp protocol, and launches the received application.

Claim 22 (Cancelled).

Claim 23. (Currently Amended): An image forming apparatus ~~that includes service modules for performing system side processes on image formation, wherein~~ to which

applications can be added to the image forming apparatus separately from the service modules, the image forming apparatus comprising:

an auxiliary storage interface part configured to interface with an auxiliary storage device that stores one or more applications such that the one or more applications are installed on the auxiliary storage device, and that stores an execution command, the auxiliary storage device corresponding to a recording medium removable from the image forming apparatus without disassembling any other portion of the image forming apparatus;

a part configured to display a setting screen that receives launch selection information from a display part of the image forming apparatus, and to store information input via the setting screen as launch selection information, the launch selection information identifying a location of at least the auxiliary storage device; and

an application launch part configured to access the launch selection information, the launch selection information indicating at least a location of an auxiliary storage device that stores one or more applications, and configured to launch the one or more applications from the auxiliary storage device according to based on the accessed launch selection information by issuing the execution command which is stored in the auxiliary storage device, the auxiliary storage device corresponding to a recording medium removable from the image forming apparatus without disassembling any other portion of the image forming apparatus; and

a part configured to display a setting screen that sets the launch selection information on a display part of the image forming apparatus, and configured to store information input from the setting screen as the launch selection information,

wherein the service modules are stored in a memory distinct from the auxiliary storage device,

wherein the one or more applications are installed in the auxiliary storage device, and

~~wherein the application launch part launches the one or more applications from the auxiliary storage device by issuing an execution command which is stored in the auxiliary storage device.~~

Claims 24-26 (Cancelled).

Claim 27. (New): A non-transitory computer readable medium storing program code for causing an image forming apparatus to execute of method of launching an application, wherein applications can be added to the image forming apparatus, the method comprising:

storing, in an auxiliary storage device, one or more applications such that the one or more applications are installed on the auxiliary storage device, and storing, in the auxiliary storage device, an execution command;

displaying a setting screen that receives launch selection information from a display part of the image forming apparatus;

storing information input via the setting screen as launch selection information, the launch selection information identifying at least the auxiliary storage device from among a plurality of kinds of auxiliary storage devices;

accessing the launch selection information; and

launching the one or more applications from the auxiliary storage device based on the accessed launch selection information by issuing the execution command which is stored in the auxiliary storage device.